

March 6, 2017

Department of the Interior
Secretary Ryan Zinke
1849 C Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretary Zinke,

Attached are my views on the Bears Ears National Monument. I really don't know what purpose it will serve other than make it more difficult for people like me to hike and camp in the area. I have spent many days hiking Grand Gulch, Comb Ridge, Cedar Mesa and Natural Bridges National Monument. All are included in the new Bears Ears National Monument even though they are controlled and administered by Federal agencies. Hopefully, the new monument will be rescinded or reduced in size.

Sincerely,



Edwin T. DeLay

Salt Lake City, Ut. 84106

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EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

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BEARS EARS NATIONAL MONUMENT

How will changing the name from Bears Ears to a national monument provide protection to the ruins, artifacts and natural resources of the area.

National Parks are a top priority of the Department of Interior, followed by National Monuments, BLM and the Forest Service. Recent articles in the Salt Lake Tribune demonstrate that even National Parks can't protect their resources, see June 15 article "woman pleads guilty to defacing rocks at 7 national parks" and 12 August article "new graffiti at Capitol Reef National Park show surge in acts of vandalism." Recently I was at Wupatki National Monument. While seeking permission to go to several ruins, the resource manager said they didn't have the personnel or resources to keep the increasing vandalism under control and have closed public access to many areas. We didn't get permission and you can only go to many of the ruins, especially those with rock art, on a ranger guided tour. One must signup on a first come basis via the internet. The ranger guided tours are only offered once in the spring and once in the fall.

Many questions remain to be answered, such as the following. Will the new Bears Ears National Monument have increased personnel and funding for Law Enforcement Officers or any new laws the existing government agencies don't have ? What will happen to the BLM field station that controls Grand Gulch. What will happen to the BLM office in Monticello that is responsible for Comb Ridge and much of Cedar Mesa. Likewise, what will happen to the Natural Bridges National Monument ? Will many of the areas be closed to the public as is the case with Wupatki National Monument ? Will camping be allowed or does one has to leave the monument by 6pm as is the case with the Grand Staircase National Monument ?

I know four individuals personally that own business in Bluff and Blanding, namely, motels, restaurants, gift shops, etc.. They support the monument as they see it increasing the number of tourist and bus tours that will financially help their business. Is this what the monument should be about ?

E.T. DeLay

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